

14 Dirleton Gate
Bearsden
Glasgow
G61 1NP
Tel: 041 942 4549

13 October '97

Mr. Brian Quail,
Scottish CND,
15, Bannockburn Street,
Glasgow.

Dear Brian,

I enclose a copy of the reply I have received
from Sam Galbraith re Exercise Short Sermon
at Faslane.

No need to acknowledge, I will send you any
further communication I receive regarding
George Robertson's response.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Drury.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please reply to office:
110A Maxwell Avenue
Bearsden
GLASGOW G61 1HU

Tel: 0141-942 9662
Fax: 0141-942 9658

Charles Drury
14 Dirleton Gate
Bearsden
GLASGOW
G61 1NP

SG/wm/w/1
3 October 1997

Dear Charles

NUCLEAR ACCIDENT EXERCISE AT FASLANE

Thank you very much indeed for your note of 17 September 1997 concerning the proposed nuclear accident exercise at Faslane. As you requested, I have taken up the matter with the Secretary of State for Defence and, when he replies, I will, of course, get back to you.

Yours sincerely

14 Dirleton Gate
Bearsden
Glasgow
G61 1NP
Tel: 041 942 4549

13 November 1997

The Secretary,
Scottish CND.
15, Barland Street,
Glasgow.

Dear Sirs,
Faslane Nuclear Accident Exercise.

Further to my previous letter re the above
I enclose a copy of the reply from
Mr. John Reid (Minister of State for the
Armed Forces) received via George Robertson
and Sam Galbraith.
Yours sincerely,
Charles Drury



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please reply to office:
110A Maxwell Avenue
Bearsden
GLASGOW G61 1HU

Tel: 0141-942 9662
Fax: 0141-942 9658

Charles Drury
14 Dirleton Gate
Bearsden
GLASGOW
G61 1NP

sg/wm/w
6 November 1997

Dear Charles

NUCLEAR ACCIDENT EXERCISE AT FASLANE

I enclose a copy of the letter of 26 October 1997 which I have received from Dr John Reid MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, about the issue I raised on your behalf. This goes into the background in some detail and I trust is helpful in clarifying the position.

Yours sincerely

SAM GALBRAITH MP
Strathkelvin and Bearsden

Enclosure(s)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-218 2216 (Direct Dialling)
0171-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/JR 3945/97/P

26th October 1997

Dear Sam

Thank you for your letter of 3 October (reference: SG/WM/w/1) to George Robertson about Exercise **SHORT SERMON**. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility as Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

I should say first that there has never been an accident involving a nuclear powered submarine reactor which has led to, or come anywhere near leading to, any release of radioactive contamination to the environment. We are confident that the continued application of stringent safety procedures will continue to prove effective in preventing any such accident.

Nevertheless, we would consider it irresponsible not to have comprehensive contingency plans for dealing with all aspects of such an eventuality, and we test these plans in regular exercises at various levels including full scale events such as Exercise **SHORT SERMON 97**. An overview of these arrangements was given in the Statement on Defence Estimates 1995.

Plans for responding to defence nuclear accidents are derived in full consultation with all relevant government departments, agencies, and in particular with the emergency services and local authorities in the area concerned. The joint plan for responding to a submarine reactor accident at Faslane is a publicly available document. Furthermore, the public in the immediate area, who might be advised to take action, are sent leaflets under the provisions of the Public Information for Radiological Emergencies Regulations.

Exercise **SHORT SERMON**, which will be held in the Faslane area between 18 to 20 November 1997, is being designed to test the

Sam Galbraith Esq MP





response of the MoD and Royal Navy in dealing with an accident involving the reactor of a nuclear powered submarine berthed in Clyde Naval Base. A key aspect of the exercise will be coordination of activities between the MoD and other agencies. We have been most pleased by the comprehensive support for the exercise that has been provided by all local emergency services and authorities and by the Scottish Office and other government departments.

The accident scenario will be simulated and no radioactive contaminants will be used during the exercise. There will be an evacuation of the Naval Base in accordance with the plan, but I would like to reassure you that the local community will not be affected in any way by the exercise.

I hope this explains the position.

Yours ever

John

DR JOHN REID MP